

SPIROTETRATHIOCARBAMATES AND SPIROOXOTHIOCARBAMATES**CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/435,949 filed December 20, 2002, the entire disclosure of which is incorporated
5 herein by reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to monomers having suitable refractive characteristics useful in the preparation of optical resins or plastics suitable for, for example, the manufacture of hard ophthalmic lenses. More specifically, the
10 invention relates to spirotetrathiocarbamate (STOCs) and their oxygen substituted derivatives spirooxothiocarbamates (SOTOCs), and their bis-derivatives (bisSTOCs or bisSOTOCs). The present invention is also directed to methods of making these compounds, optical devices containing the compounds, and methods for preparing these optical devices.

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

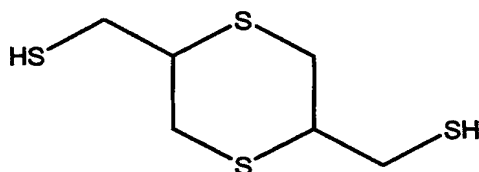
In recent years, transparent synthetic resins having a high refractive index have found increasing applications as optical plastic materials replacing inorganic optical materials because of their light weight and good impact strength, moldability or processability and dyeability.

20

Plastics used in the preparation of optical devices must have properties suitable for the intended purpose. These materials should, *inter alia*, be transparent, non-yellowing, and have a suitable refractive index. In general, the higher the refractive index polymer allows for a thinner more lightweight lens, as well as an improved physical appearance. A refractive index of 1.5 or greater is desired, and
25 higher refractive index plastics, e.g., 1.6, 1.7, 1.8, or more, are preferred.

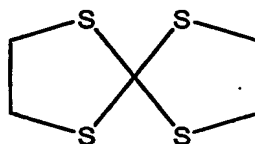
Many different types of plastics are used to manufacture optical lenses, and these plastics are well-known in the art.

Further, some specific sulfur-containing monomers have been described as useful for producing optical lenses with desirable refractive indices. For example, U.S. Patent No. 4,810,812 discloses thiolcarboxylic acid esters which are said to have a high refractive index and suitable transparency. Additionally, 2,5-dimercaptomethyl 1,4-dithian of formula:



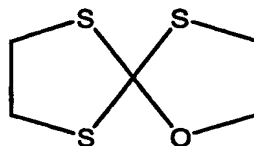
is disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,403,938 and is said to be suitable for use in optical materials with high heat resistance and excellent mechanical properties as well as excellent optical properties.

An unsubstituted 4,4 spirotetraethiocardamate compound having the formula:



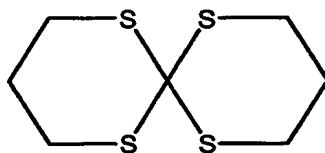
has been reported. The synthesis of the [4.4]STOC (above) is reported by D'Amico *et al.* in U.S. Patent 3,525,752 and D'Amico in U.S. Patent 3,652,256; and by D. L. Coffen, *J. Heterocycl. Chem.*, 7:201, 1970. Compounds of this type or partial or full oxa derivatives have been investigated with regard to expansion polymerization. T. Endo and T. Tanaka, *Macromolecules*, 21:2314, 1988.

A compound of formula:



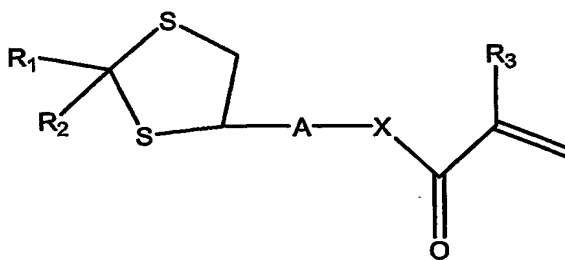
has also been reported in M. Barbero, *et al.*, *J. Chem Soc.*, Perkin Trans 1, 3:289-94, 1996. The paper is concerned only with the biological activity of SOTOC precursors and derivatives.

- 5 There are also reports of polymerizing a 5,5 spirotrithiocarbamate as shown below:



(See J. J. D'Amico *et al.* in U.S. Patent 3,525,752 and D'Amico in U.S. Patent 3,652,256; and D. L. Coffen, *J. Heterocycl. Chem.*, 7:201, 1970.)

- 10 U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0061995 discloses acrylic ester compounds of the general formula:



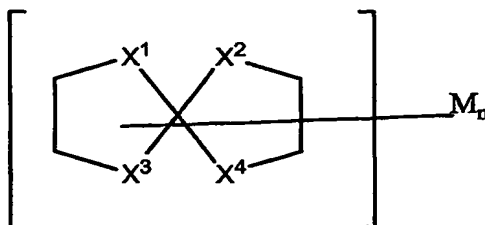
with specific substituents and polymerizable substituents bonded thereto. These compounds are said to be suitable resins for optical components having, *inter alia*, a high refractive index.

Despite the availability of a variety of optical polymers, new polymers with a high refractive index or other improved features are desirable.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of this invention, therefore, to provide monomers which can provide resins having a high refractive index and excellent transparency useful as an optical plastic material.

The present invention relates to substituted spirotetra-thiocarbamate (STOCs) monomers and oxygen-substituted derivatives, known as spirooxothiocarbamates (SOTOCs), which have a suitable refractive index for use in preparing optical plastics. Compounds of the present invention have the general formula :

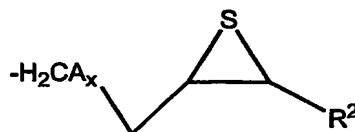


wherein X^1 , X^2 , X^3 and X^4 are O or S, wherein at least two and up to all four of X^1 , X^2 , X^3 and X^4 are sulfur (S);

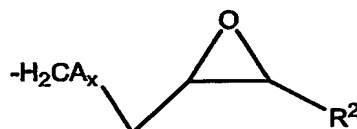
n is from 1 to 4; and

M is selected from CH_2Cl , $\text{CH}_2\text{SC}(\text{O})\text{R}^1$, $\text{CH}_2\text{SC}(\text{S})\text{R}^1$, $\text{CH}_2\text{S}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{S})_q\text{H}$ wherein q is 0, 1 or 2; $-\text{CR}^2=\text{CH}_2$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{OC}(\text{O})\text{CR}^2=\text{CH}_2$, $\text{CH}_2\text{N}=\text{C}=\text{S}$, $\text{CH}_2\text{N}=\text{C}=\text{O}$,

$\text{CH}_2\text{NR}^2\text{H}$, CH_2OH , $\text{CH}_2\text{SCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CR}^2=\text{CH}_2$, phenyl, $\text{C}(\text{R}^2)_2$ phenyl, furan, thiophene, halogen, $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_6$ cycloalkyl, $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_6$ heretocyclics, thiol,



or



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wherein A is S, O or phenyl and x is 0 or 1;

R^1 is $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{22}$ alkyl; and

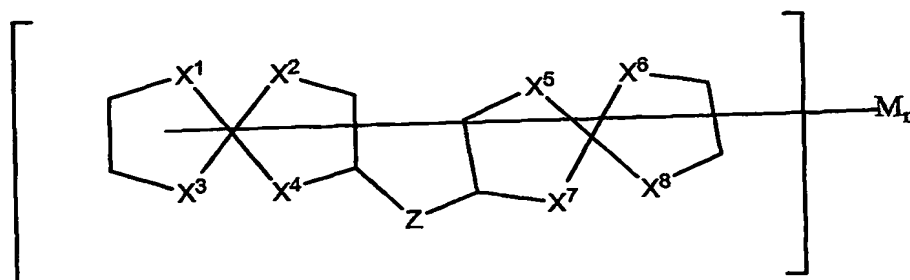
R^2 is H or $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{22}$ alkyl.

10 Additional spiro groups may attach to one or two positions of the STOC compound. Those spiro moieties may be carbocyclic or heterocyclic (e.g., a sulfur heterocycle) in nature.

Alkyls of $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{22}$, preferably $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_8$, most preferably $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4$, are preferred substituents. Alkyls may be aliphatic or branched, substituted, e.g., with halogen, or
15 unsubstituted. C_1 to C_3 aliphatic or C_3 to C_6 branched alkyls are preferred.

These materials may also undergo tandem double ring-opening polymerization under certain catalytic conditions, e.g. a cationic, and the resulting polymer species are also a part of the present invention. The ring-opening polymerization derivatives of species where M is CH_2Cl or $\text{CH}_2\text{SC}(\text{O})\text{R}^1$ are
20 particularly preferred.

The invention also relates to bisSTOC and bisSOTOC compounds having the formula:



- 5 wherein $X^1, X^2, X^3, X^4, X^5, X^6, X^7$, and X^8 , are independently O or S; and preferably at least two and up to all four of X^1, X^2, X^3 and X^4 , and at least two and up to all four of X^5, X^6, X^7 , and X^8 are sulfur(s).

$n = 0$ to 4

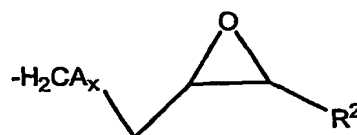
- 10 Z is $-C_m R^{2m}-$ wherein $m = 1-4$; $-C(R^2)_2 SC(R^2)_2-$, $-C(R^2)_2 SSC(R^2)_2-$, or $-C(R^2)_2 OC(R^2)_2-$;

M is selected from CH_2Cl , $CH_2SC(O)R^1$, $CH_2SC(S)R^1$, $CH_2S(CH_2CH_2S)_qH$ wherein q is 0, 1 or 2; $-CR^2=CH_2$, $-CH_2OC(O)CR^2=CH_2$, $CH_2N=C=S$, $CH_2N=C=O$, CH_2NR^2H , CH_2OH , $CH_2SCH_2CH_2CR^2=CH_2$, phenyl, $C(R^2)_2$ phenyl, furan, thiophene, halogen, C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl, C_3-C_6 heretocyclics, thiol,

15



or



wherein A is S, O or phenyl and x is 0 or 1;

R¹ is C₁-C₂₂ alkyl; and

R² is H or C₁-C₂₂ alkyl.

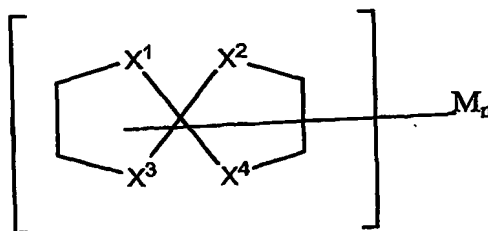
In a preferred embodiment, n = 0, 1 or 2

5 By polymerizing the compounds of the invention, or copolymerizing them, various compounds can be made. The polymers have a high refractive index and excellent transparency, and have good processability characteristics such as machineability, and are suitable as optical plastics.

10 Methods for producing these compositions and optical lenses prepared from these compositions are also a part of the present invention. Optical lenses may be prepared by polymerizing or copolymerizing the compounds of the invention and forming an optical lens. Alternatively, optical lenses may be prepared by polymerizing or copolymerizing the compounds of the invention and coating an optical lens or suitable substrate therewith. The optical lenses are also a part of the
15 invention.

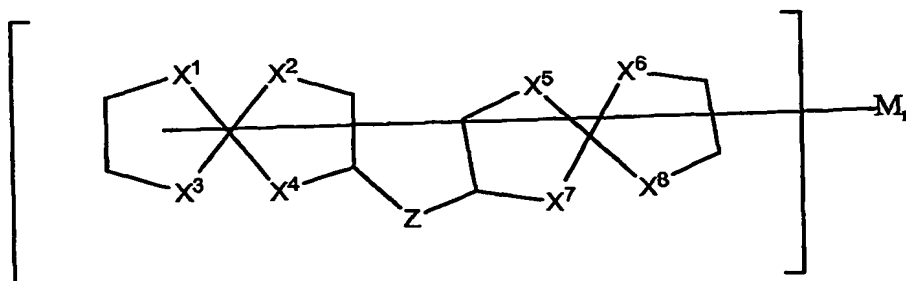
DETAILED DESCRIPTION

In certain embodiments, the invention relates to STOC and SOTOC compounds of Formula I:



Formula I

and bisSTOC and bisSOTOC compounds of Formula II:



Formula II

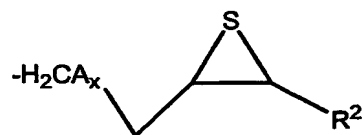
- wherein $X^1, X^2, X^3, X^4, X^5, X^6, X^7$, and X^8 , are independently O or S; and
 5 preferably at least two and up to all four of X^1, X^2, X^3 and X^4 , and at least two and up to all four of X^5, X^6, X^7 , and X^8 are sulfur(s);

Z is $-C_mR^2_{2m}-$ wherein $m = 1-4$; $-C(R^2)_2SC(R^2)_2-$, $-C(R^2)_2SSC(R^2)_2-$, or $-C(R^2)_2OC(R^2)_2-$;

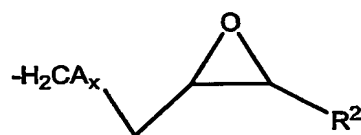
n is from 0 to 4; and

- 10 M is selected from CH_2Cl , $CH_2SC(O)R^1$, $CH_2SC(S)R^1$, $CH_2S(CH_2CH_2S)_qH$ wherein q is 0, 1 or 2; $-CR^2=CH_2$, $-CH_2OC(O)CR^2=CH_2$, $CH_2N=C=S$, $CH_2N=C=O$, CH_2NR^2H , CH_2OH , $CH_2SCH_2CH_2CR^2=CH_2$, phenyl, $C(R^2)_2$ phenyl, furan, thiophene, halogen, C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl, C_3-C_6 heretocyclics, thiol, H,

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or



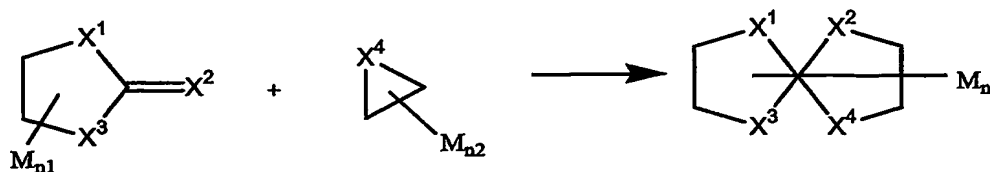
- 5 wherein A is S, O or phenyl and x is 0 or 1;
 R^1 is C_1 - C_{22} alkyl; and
 R^2 is H or C_1 - C_{22} alkyl,

Except that if the compound is a STOC or SOTOC, at least one M substituent cannot be H and n must be 1, 2, 3 or 4.

- 10 Preferably, M is H, CH_2SH , CH_2Cl , CH_2SCOCH_3 or $CH=CH_2$. Also preferably, n is 1 or 2.

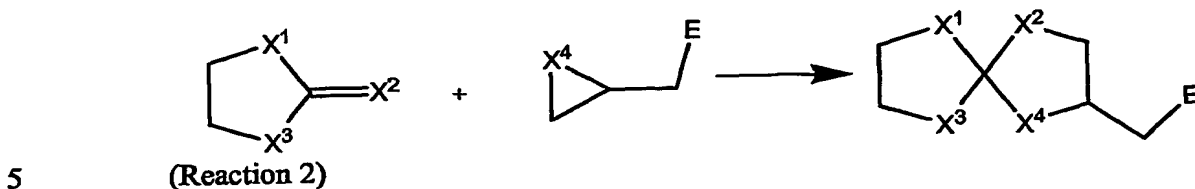
In general, the compounds of formula I can be prepared according to the following reaction scheme :

- 15 (Reaction 1)



X^1, X^2, X^3, X^4, M and n being defined as above, and n_1 and n_2 being 0, 1 or 2 with the provision that $n_1 + n_2 \neq 0$ and at least one M substituent is not H.

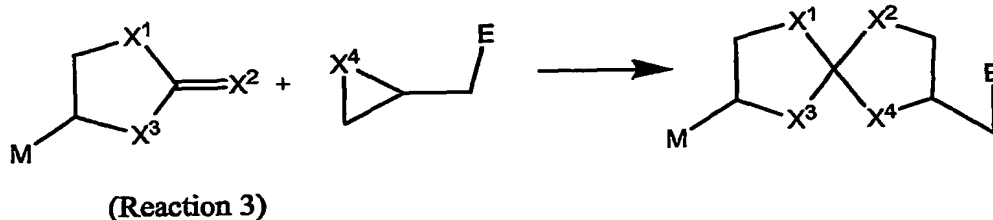
In a preferred embodiment, the compounds of Formula I may be prepared as follows:



wherein X^1, X^2, X^3 and X^4 are as defined above, and E is halide or thiol.

Another preferred method for producing the compounds according to Formula I is set forth below:

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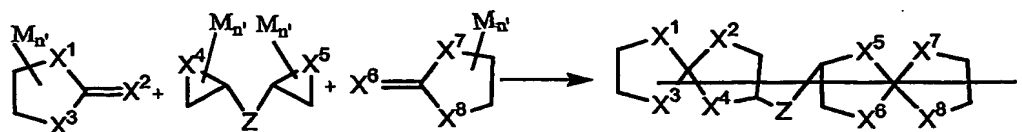


wherein X^1, X^2, X^3 and X^4 and E are as defined above, and M is as defined above.

15 The reaction temperatures may range from -10 to 70°C , with the reaction temperature being determined by the stability of the reactions and products and other factors known to those skilled in the art.

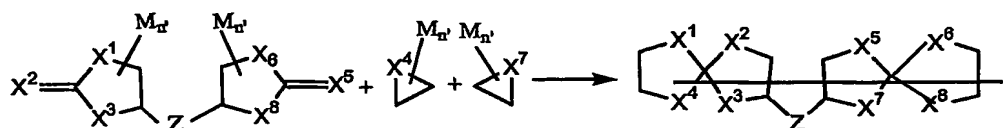
Solvents and catalysts will be selected according to the reactants and other factors known to those skilled in the art.

20 The bisTOCs and bisSOTOCs of the present invention may be prepared according to the following reaction schemes :



(Reaction 4)

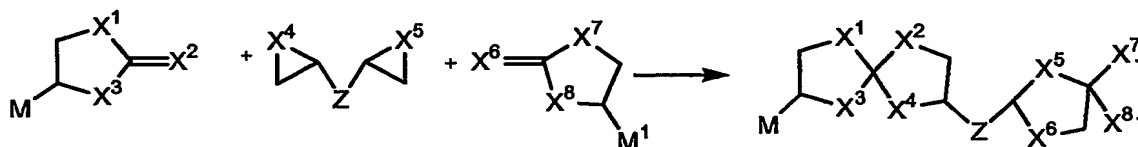
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(Reaction 5)

With n' being 0, 1 or 2, X^1 , X^2 , X^3 , X^4 , X^5 , X^6 , X^7 and X^8 , Z, M and n having the definition provided above.

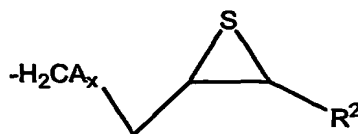
10 The bisSTOCs and bisSOTOCs of the present invention may preferably be prepared, e.g., by the reaction set forth below:



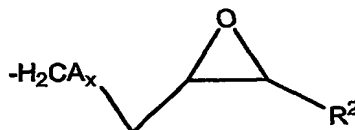
(Reaction 6)

15 wherein X^1 , X^2 , X^3 , X^4 , X^5 , X^6 , X^7 , X^8 , Z and M have the definitions provided above. M^1 may be CH_2Cl , $\text{CH}_2\text{SC}(\text{O})\text{R}^1$, $\text{CH}_2\text{SC}(\text{S})\text{R}^1$, $\text{CH}_2\text{S}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{S})_q\text{H}$ wherein q is 0, 1 or 2, $-\text{CR}^2=\text{CH}_2$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{OC}(\text{O})\text{CR}^2=\text{CH}_2$, $\text{CH}_2\text{N}=\text{C}=\text{S}$, $\text{CH}_2\text{N}=\text{C}=\text{O}$, $\text{CH}_2\text{NR}^2\text{H}$, CH_2OH , $\text{CH}_2\text{SCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CR}^2=\text{CH}_2$, phenyl, $\text{C}(\text{R}^2)$ phenyl, furan, thiophene, halogen, $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_6$ cycloalkyl, $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_6$ heterocyclics, thiol, H

20



or



- 5 wherein A is S, O or phenyl and x is 0 or 1;
 R¹ is C₁-C₂₂ alkyl; and
 R² is H or C₁-C₂₂ alkyl.

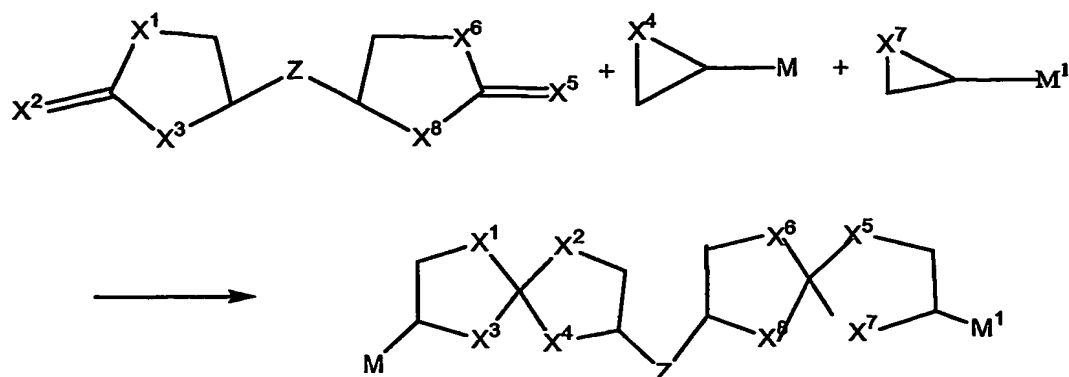
Each of the alternative atoms or groups on the compounds of the invention are their precursor molecules independently selected so that the resulting bis compound may or may not be symmetrical. Thus, for example, M and M¹ may be the same or different.

It is preferred that the reaction be carried out in a suitable catalyst, e.g., tetrafluoroboric acid.

15 In a preferred embodiment, at least one substituted or unsubstituted ethylenetrithiocarbonate is reacted with bis-methylthiirane sulphide or bis-methylthiirane disulphide, in the presence of a catalytic amount of tetrafluoroboric acid to produce the desired bisSTOC.

An alternative embodiment for preparing bisSTOCs and bisSOTOCs is set forth below:

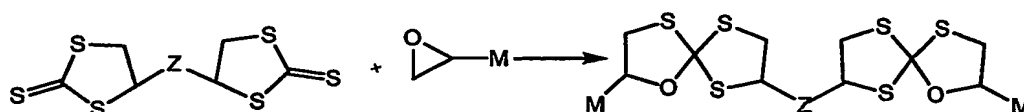
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wherein $X^1, X^2, X^3, X^4, X^5, X^6, X^7, X^8, Z, M$ and M^1 are as defined above.

In a preferred embodiment, bis-ethylenetrithiocarbonate sulfide, or bis-ethylenetrithiocarbonate, is reacted with a substituted thiirane, in the presence of a catalytic amount of tetrafluoroboric acid to produce the desired bisSTOC.

- 5 In another preferred embodiment, bisSOTOCs of the present invention can be prepared by reacting a substituted or unsubstituted ethylenedithiocarbonate with bis-methylthiirane sulphide, or bis-methylthiirane disulphide, in the presence of a catalytic amount of tetrafluoroboric acid to produce the bisSOTOC. A schematic of the reaction is provided below:



10

wherein Z is preferably $-\text{CH}_2\text{SCH}_2-$ or $-\text{CH}_2\text{SSCH}_2-$.

Alternatively, bisSOTOCs of the present invention may be prepared by reacting bis-ethylenetrithiocarbonate sulfide or bis-ethylenetrithiocarbonate, with substituted oxirane, in the presence of a catalytic amount of tetrafluoroboric acid to produce the bisSOTOC.

15

The compositions of the present invention may have one or more chiral centers.

The compositions of the present invention may have enantiomers and diastereoisomers that are contemplated to be within the scope of the present invention. Examples of enantiomers and diastereoisomers are shown in Tables 1 and 2 below:

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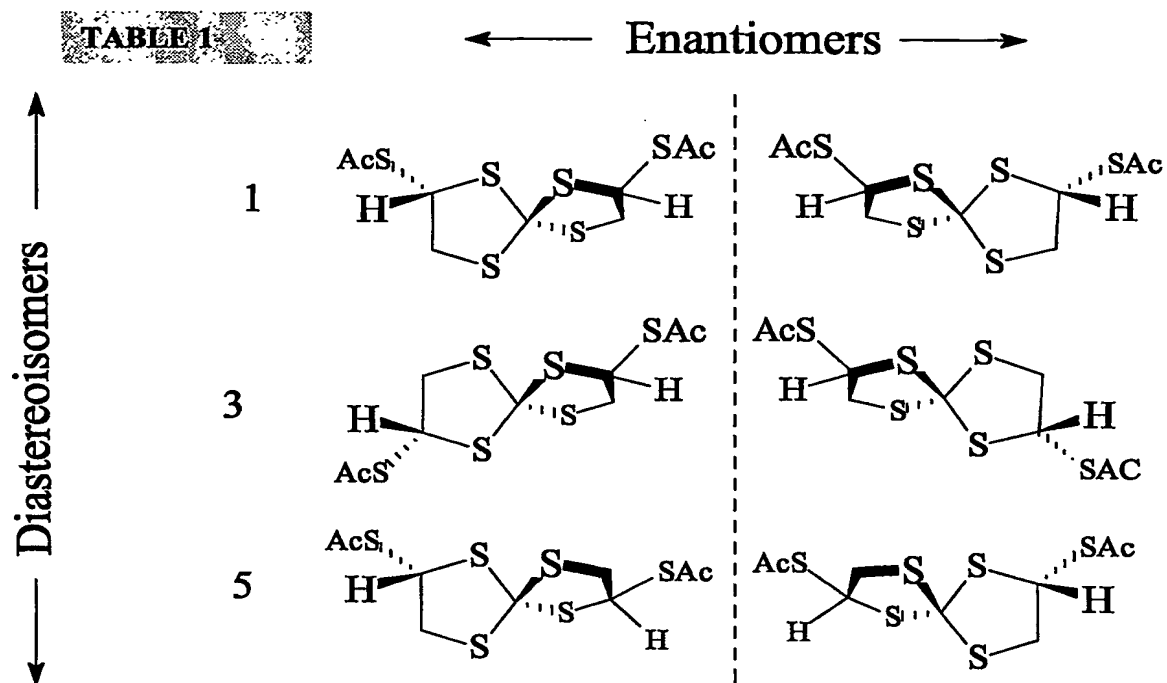
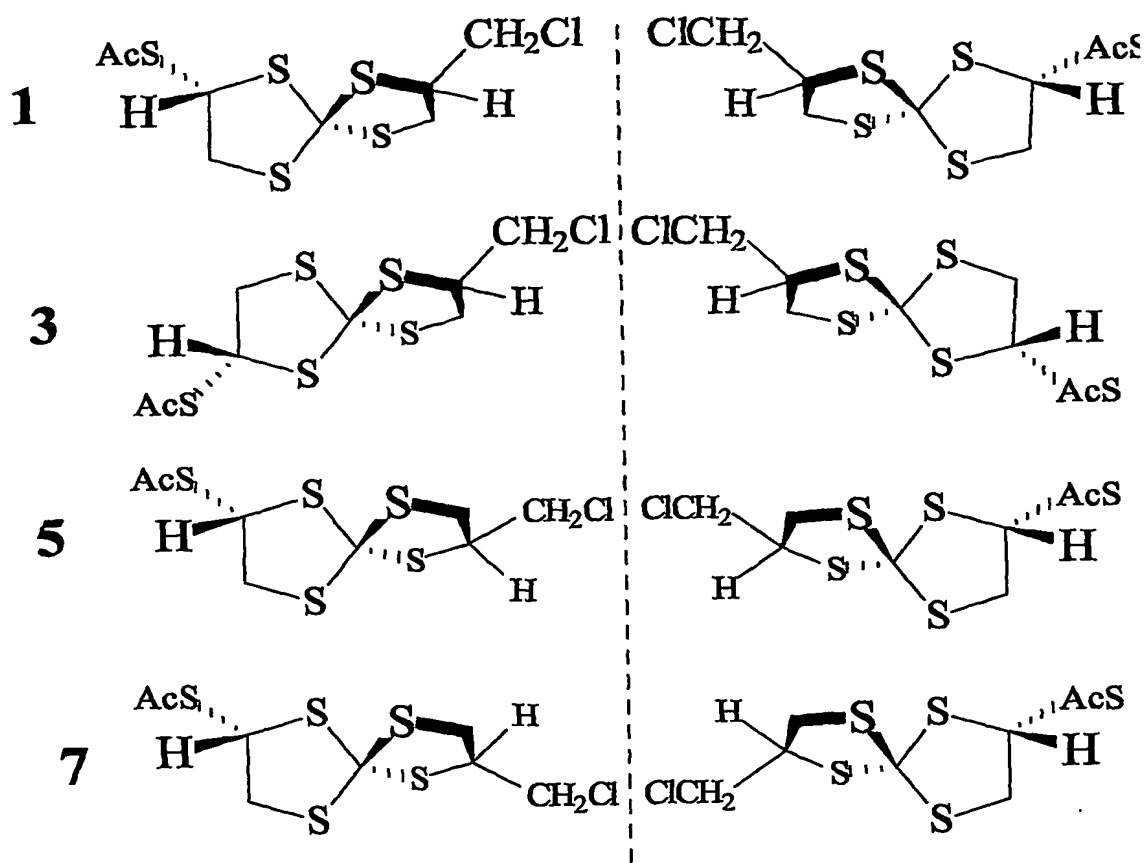


TABLE 2

← Enantiomers →

↑
Diastereoisomers
↓

Given the novel STOC and SOTOC compounds disclosed herein, those of ordinary skill will be able to prepare a variety of polymeric substrates useful for optics using a variety of known methods.

Preferred embodiments of the invention are discussed in detail below.

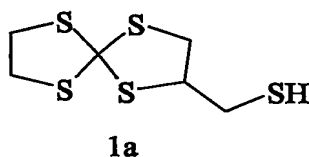
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PREPARATION OF STOC AND SOTOC COMPOUNDS

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Example 1: Preparation of 2-(Mercaptomethyl)-1,4,6,9-tetrathiaspiro[4.4]nonane (1a)

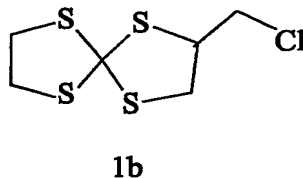
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A. Preparation of 2-(Chloromethyl)-1,4,6,9-tetrathiaspiro[4.4]nonane (1b)

A stirred, cooled (-5°C ice-salt), solution of ethylene trithiocarbonate (12.03g; 0.088moles) and tetrafluoroboric acid (2.2mL) in anhydrous dichloromethane (160mL) under nitrogen, was treated drop-wise with a solution of epithiochlorohydrin (11.52g; 0.106moles) in anhydrous dichloromethane (160mL). The reaction was allowed to warm to room temperature and left to stir for 22 hours.

The reaction mixture was washed with 5% aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution and the organic layer separated, dried and evaporated to yield a wet yellow solid. Trituration with hexane afforded 2-(chloromethyl)-1,4,6,9-tetrathiaspiro[4.4]nonane as a yellow solid (yield 82.0%).



M.p.= 71-77 °C.

H-NMR analysis provided the following data:

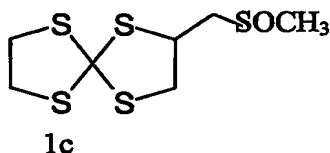
$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3) : 3.36-3.49 (m, 4H, H-7 and H-8), 3.57-3.65 (m, 3H, H-3, CH_2Cl), 3.95 (dd, 1H, H-3), 4.06 (m, 1H, H-2).

5 $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3): 42.43 and 42.68 (C(7 and 8)), 44.38 (CH_2Cl), 44.93 (C(3)), 58.40 (C(2)), 85.88 (C(5)).

B. Preparation of 2-(S-Methyl)-1,4,6,9-tetrathiaspiro[4.4]nonane thiolacetate (1c).

10 A solution of 2-(chloromethyl)-1,4,6,9-tetrathiaspiro[4.4]nonane (10.02g; 0.041moles) in anhydrous DMF (50.0mL) was added drop-wise to a stirred solution of potassium thiolacetate (7.31g; 0.064moles) in dry DMF (240mL) at room temperature under nitrogen. The resulting mixture was allowed to stir for 44 hours. The reaction mixture was evaporated, and the resulting wet solid taken up in
15 chloroform and washed with water.

The organic layer was separated, dried and evaporated to yield a yellow solid. Purification by flash-chromatography (10% ethyl acetate in hexane over silica) afforded 2-(S-methyl)-1,4,6,9-tetrathiaspiro[4.4]nonane thiolacetate as a clear oil (yield 23.2%).



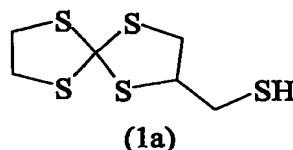
$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3) : 2.36 (s, 3H, CH_3), 3.27-3.49 (m, 8H, H-3, H-7, H-8 and CH_2), 4.00 (m, 1H, H-2).

30 $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3): 30.97 (CH_3), 33.18 (CH_2), 42.43 and 42.50 (C(7 and 8)), 46.03 (C(3)), 57.87 (C(2)), 83.50 (C(5)), 193.05 (CO).

C. Preparation of 2-(Mercaptomethyl)-1,4,6,9-tetrathiaspiro [4.4]nonane (1a)

A solution of 2-(S-methyl)-1,4,6,9-tetrathiaspiro[4.4]nonane thiolacetate (2.70g; 0.009moles) in anhydrous THF (50.0mL) was added drop-wise to a cooled (ice-water) stirred solution of 1.0M Lithium Aluminum Hydride (5.92mL; 0.006moles) in THF under nitrogen. The subsequent mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for a further 5 hours.

The reaction mixture was acidified and extracted with diethyl ether. The diethyl ether extract was washed first with water (1 x 75mL), then with a saturated salt solution (1 x 75mL). The organic phase was separated, dried and evaporated to give a yellow liquid which upon cooling and trituration with diethyl ether afforded crude 2-(mercaptomethyl)-1,4,6,9-tetrathiaspiro[4.4]nonane as yellow solid (yield 37.6%). Recrystallization from hexane gave the product as a white solid.

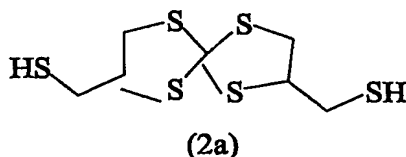


M.p.=79 to 80.5 °C

¹H-NMR (CDCl₃) : 1.67 (s, 1H, SH), 2.91-2.97 (m, 2H, CH₂), 3.38-3.50 (m, 5H, H-3, H-7 and H-8), 3.61 (dd, 1H, H-3), 3.97 (m, 1H, H-2).

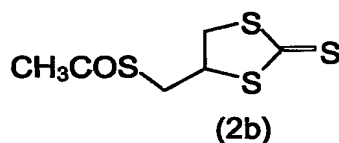
¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃): 27.13 (CH₂), 40.94 and 40.98 (C(7 and 8)), 43.87 (C(3)), 59.84 (C(2)), 84.15 (C(5)).

Example 2: Preparation of 2,7-Bis(mercaptomethyl)-1,4,6,9-tetrathiaspiro[4.4]nonane (2a)



METHOD 1**A. Preparation of 4-(S-Methyl)-1,3-dithiolane-2-thione thiolacetate (2b)**

A stirred, cooled (ice-water), solution of triethylamine (32.57g; 0.32moles, 44.8mL) and 2-(mercaptomethyl)-1,3-dithiolane-2-thione (40.48g; 0.22moles) in anhydrous THF (500ml), under nitrogen, was treated drop-wise with a solution of acetyl chloride (20.91g; 0.27moles; 18.9mL) in anhydrous THF (250mL). The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature. The solid was collected and washed with diethyl ether. The ether filtrate was washed with water, separated, dried and evaporated to yield a wet brown solid (49.69g). Trituration with diethyl ether afforded 2-(S-methyl)-1,3-dithiolane-2-thione thiolacetate as a yellow-brown solid (38.18g; 76.7%).



20

M.p.=45°C to 48°C.

¹H-NMR (CDCl₃) : 2.41 (s, 3H, CH₃), 3.37-3.42 (m, 2H, CH₂), 3.80 (dd, 1H, H-5), 4.10 (dd, 1H, H-5), 4.45 (m, 1H, H-4).

¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃): 30.32 (CH₃), 31.43 (CH₂), 46.64 (C(5)), 57.72 (C(4)), 194.07 (CO).

25

MS: 225 [M+H]⁺

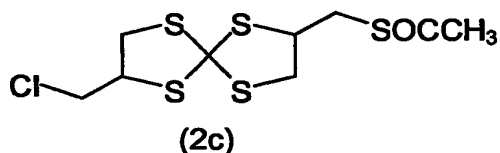
B. Production of 2-(Chloromethyl)-7-(S-methyl)-1,4,6,9-tetrathiaspiro [4.4]nonane Thiolacetate (2c)

A stirred, cooled (-5°C ice-salt), solution of tetrafluoroboric acid (0.20mL) and 4-(S-methyl)-1,3-dithiolane-2-thione thiolacetate (1.70g; 0.008moles) in

30

anhydrous dichloromethane (50.0mL), under nitrogen, was treated drop-wise with a solution of epithiochlorohydrin (1.70g; 0.016moles) in anhydrous dichloromethane (40.0mL). The resulting mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and left to stir for 22 hours.

- 5 The reaction mixture was treated with water (50.0mL) and the organic phase separated, dried and evaporated to leave a brown-red oil. Purification by short-path chromatography (10% ethyl acetate in hexane over flash silica) yielded a diastereoisomeric mixture of 2-(chloromethyl)-7-(S-methyl)-1,4,6,9-tetrathiaspiro[4.4]nonane thiolacetate as pale yellow oil (yield 56.2%).



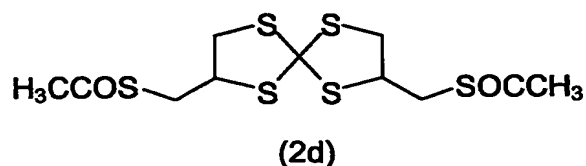
- 20 ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃) : 2.37 (s, 3H, CH₃), 3.15-3.70 (m, 7H, H-3, H-8, CH₂S, CH₂Cl), 3.85-4.08 and 4.10-4.20 (m, 3H, H-2, H-7 and H-8)
- ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃): 31.03 (CH₃), 32.10-34.12 (CH₂S), 44.03-46.19 (C(3), (8) and CH₂Cl), 57.29-58.87 (C(2) and (7)), 85.39-85.82 (C(5)), 194.78-195.12 (CO).
- MS: 225 and 333 [M+H]⁺

25

C. Production of 2,7-Bis(S-methyl)-1,4,6,9-tetrathiaspiro[4.4]nonane Thiolacetate (2d)

- A solution of 2-(chloromethyl)-7-(S-methyl)-1,4,6,9-tetrathiaspiro[4.4]nonane thiolacetate (0.91g; 0.0027moles) in anhydrous DMF
- 30 (25.0mL) was added drop-wise to a potassium thiolacetate (2.44g; 0.021moles) in dry DMF (45.0mL). The reaction was stirred under nitrogen, at room temperature for 52 hours.

The resulting reaction mixture was evaporated, dissolved in chloroform and washed with water. The organic phase was separated, dried and evaporated to yield a diastereoisomeric mixture of 2,7-bis(S-methyl)-1,4,6,9-tetrathiaspiro[4.4]nonane thiolacetate as a yellow oil (yield 29.5%).



¹H-NMR (CDCl₃) : 2.36 (s, 6H, 2 x CH₃), 3.25-3.40 (m, 6H, H-3, H-8, 2 x CH₂), 3.45-3.55 (m, 2H, H-3, and H-8), 3.96 and 4.10 (m, 2H, H-2 and H-7).

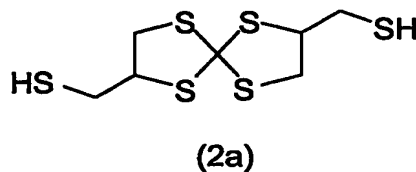
¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃): 30.96 (CH₃), 32.59-33.73 (CH₂S), 45.82-46.12 (C(3) and (8)), 57.49-58.33 (C(2) and (7)), 85.00-85.30 (C(5)), 195.04-195.12 (CO).

MS: 225 and 373 [M+H]⁺

D. Production of 2,7-Bis(mercaptomethyl)-1,4,6,9-tetrathiaspiro[4.4]nonane (2a)

To a cooled (ice-water), stirred, solution of 1.0M LiAlH₄ (4.9mL; 0.005moles) in THF was added drop-wise to a solution of 2,7-bis(S methyl)-1,4,6,9-tetrathiaspiro[4.4]nonane thiolacetate (0.99g; 0.0008moles) in anhydrous THF (20.0mL). The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stir for a further 18 hours.

The reaction mixture was acidified to pH4 with 10% sulfuric acid and extracted into diethyl ether. The diethyl ether fraction was separated, dried and evaporated to yield a brown oil. Purification by flash-chromatography (10% ethyl acetate in hexane over silica) afforded a diastereoisomeric mixture of 2,7-bis(mercaptomethyl)-1,4,6,9-tetrathiaspiro[4.4]nonane as a light yellow oil (yield 40.7%).



¹H-NMR (CDCl₃) : 1.61-69 (m, 2H, 2 x SH), 2.88-2.95 (m, 4H, 2 x CH₂), 3.41-3.64 (m, 4H, H-3 and H-8), 3.90 and 4.07 (m, 2H, H-2 and H-7).
¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃): 28.14-29.11 (CH₂), 45.09-45.56 (C(3) and (8)), 60.99-61.96 (C(2) and (7)), 85.55-85.70 (C(5)).
MS: 289 [M+H]⁺

METHOD 2

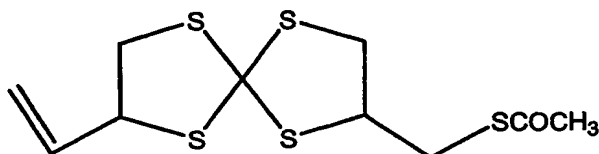
Tetrafluoroboric acid (0.7mL) was added to a cooled (ice-water), stirred, solution of 2-(mercaptomethyl)-1,3-dithiolane-2-thione (5.70g; 0.023moles) of anhydrous dichloromethane (160.0mL). The resulting mixture, under nitrogen, was
5 treated drop-wise with a solution of mercaptomethylthiirane (3.00g; 0.028moles) in anhydrous dichloromethane (60.0mL). The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for a further 5 hours.

The reaction mixture was treated and washed with water. The organic phase was separated, dried and evaporated to give a yellow oil. Purification by flash-
10 chromatography (10% ethyl acetate in hexane over silica) afforded a diastereoisomeric mixture of 2,7-bis(mercaptomethyl)-1,4,6,9-tetrathiaspiro[4.4]nonane as a pale yellow oil (yield 44.7%).

15 **Example 3: Preparation of 2-(S-methyl)-7-vinyl-1,4,6,9-tetrathiaspiro[4.4]nonane Thiolacetate (3)**

Tetrafluoroboric acid (0.72mL) was added to a cooled (ice-water), stirred solution of 2-(S-methyl)-1,3-dithiolane-2-thione thiolacetate (5.01g; 0.022moles) in anhydrous dichloromethane (125.0mL) under nitrogen. The mixture was treated drop-wise, with cooling, with a solution of vinylthiirane (4.66g; 0.054moles) in dry
20 dichloromethane (100mL). The subsequent reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for 24 hours.

The reaction mixture was quenched and washed with water. The organic phase was separated, dried and evaporated to yield as a dark brown oil. Purification by flash-chromatography (10% ethyl acetate in hexane over silica) afforded a
25 diastereoisomeric mixture of 2-(S-methyl)-7-vinyl-1,4,6,9-tetrathiaspiro[4.4]nonane thiolacetate as a pale yellow oil (yield 30.3%).



(3)

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3) : 2.36 (s, 3H, CH_3), 3.24–3.50 (m, 6H, H-3, H-8, 2 x CH_2), 4.03 (m, 1H, H-2), 4.50 (m, 1H, H-7), 5.14 (t, 1H, $=\text{CH}_2$) and 5.17 (t, 1H, $=\text{CH}_2$), 5.91 (m, 1H, $-\text{CH}=\text{}$).

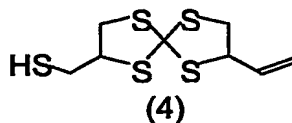
$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3): 31.05 (CH_3), 32.29–33.66 (CH_2S), 45.93–47.30 (C(3) and (8)), 57.40–58.54 (C(2)), 61.28–62.27 (C(7)), 85.56–85.62 (C(5)), 117.48–118.95 ($=\text{CH}_2$), 134.04–135.44 ($-\text{CH}=\text{}$), 194.80–195.17 (CO).

MS: 225 and 311 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$

Example 4: Preparation of 2-(Mercaptomethyl)-7-vinyl-1,4,6,9-tetrathiaspiro[4.4]nonane (4)

Sodium hydroxide (0.28g; 0.007moles) in anhydrous methanol (10.0mL) was added to a cooled (ice-water) solution of 2-(S-methyl)-7-vinyl-1,4,6,9-tetrathiaspiro[4.4]nonane thiolacetate (2.09g, 0.007moles) in dry methanol (10.0mL). The mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and left to stir under nitrogen for 22 hours.

The reaction mixture was acidified with 1M aqueous hydrochloric acid and extracted with diethyl ether. The combined diethyl ether extracts were dried and evaporated to yield the diastereoisomeric mixture of 2-(mercaptomethyl)-7-vinyl-1,4,6,9-tetrathiaspiro[4.4]nonane as yellow oil (yield 71.7%).



$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3) : 1.65-1.72 (m, 1H, SH), 2.89-2.94 (m, 2H, CH_2), 3.30-3.59 (m,

4H, H-3 and H-8), 3.83-4.10 (tm, 1H, H-2), 4.35-4.6 (dm, 1H, H-7), 5.18 (t, 1H, $=\text{CH}_2$), 5.33 (m, 1H, $=\text{CH}_2$), 5.96 (m, 1H, $-\text{CH}=\text{}$).

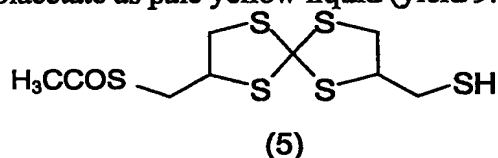
$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3): 28.08-29.04 (CH_2S), 45.20-45.71 (C(3)) 46.97-47.37 (C(8)), 60.93-62.35 (C(2) and (7)), 85.49-85.90 (C(5)), 118.24-119.03 ($=\text{CH}_2$), 134.03-135.49 ($-\text{CH}=\text{}$).

MS: 269 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$

Example 5: Production of 7-(Mercaptomethyl)-2-(S-methyl)-1,4,6,9-tetrathiaspiro[4.4]nonane Thiolacetate (5)

Tetrafluoroboric acid (0.6mL) was added to a cooled (ice-water), stirred, solution of 2-(S-methyl)-1,3-dithiolane-2-thione thiolacetate (5.51g; 0.025moles) in anhydrous dichloromethane (50.0mL). The mixture was then treated drop-wise with a solution of vinylthiirane (3.20g; 0.03moles) in dry dichloromethane (20.0mL) under nitrogen. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for a further 3 hours.

The reaction mixture was quenched with water and the organic layer separated, dried and evaporated to yield a yellow-brown oil. Purification by flash chromatography (10% ethyl acetate in hexane over silica) afforded a diastereoisomeric mixture of 7-(mercaptomethyl)-2-(S-methyl)-1,4,6,9-tetrathiaspiro[4.4]nonane thiolacetate as pale yellow liquid (yield 9.73%).

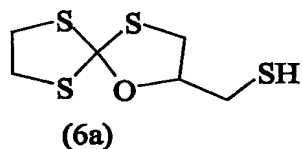


$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3): 1.68-1.75 (m, 1H, SH), 2.37 (s, 3H, CH_3), 2.85-2.98 (m, 2H, CH_2SH), 3.24-3.48 (m, 3H, H-3 and CH_2SCO), 3.47-3.89 (m, 3H, H-3 and H-8), 3.91 and 4.10 (m, 2H, H-2 and H-7).

5 $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3): 28.3-29.0 (CSH), 30.9 (CH_3), 33.5 (CH_2SCO), 44.1-45.9 (C(3) and (8)), 57.2-58.0 (C(2)), 60.7-61.7 (C(7)), 85.1-85.5 (C(5)), 194.7-194.9 (CO).

MS: 331 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$

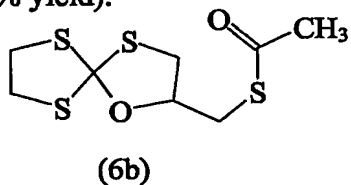
10 **Example 6: Preparation of 2-Mercaptomethyl-1-oxa-4,6,9-trithiaspiro[4.4]nonane (6a)**



25 **A. Preparation of 2-(S-methyl)-1-oxa-4,6,9-trithiaspiro[4.4]nonane Thiolacetate (6b)**

2-(Chloromethyl)-1-oxa-4,6,9-trithiaspiro[4.4]nonane (3.50g; 0.015mol) in anhydrous DMF (10.0mL) was added drop-wise, over a period of 30 minutes, to a stirred solution of potassium thiolacetate (8.73g; 0.077mol) in anhydrous DMF (36.5mL) under nitrogen. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 16 hours.

The reaction mixture was evaporated and the residue dissolved in chloroform and washed twice with water. The organic phase was separated, dried and evaporated to yield a brown oil. Purification by flash chromatography (toluene over silica) afforded 2-(S-methyl)-1-oxa-4,6,9-trithiaspiro[4.4]nonane thiolacetate as a yellow oil (3.19g; 77.60% yield).



$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3) : 2.37 (s, 3H, CH_3), 2.97 (dd, 1H, H-3), 3.18 (dd, 1H, H-3), 3.31 (m, 2H, CH_2S), 3.38 (m, 2H, H-7 or 8), 3.52 (m, 2H, H-7 or 8), 4.37 (m, 1H, H-2).

5 $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3) : 30.87 (CH_3), 31.19 (CH_2), 38.22 (C(3)), 41.12 (C(7 or 8)), 42.21 (C(7 or 8)), 82.74 (C(2)), 113.20 (C(5)), 195.03 (C=O).

B. Preparation of 2-(Mercaptomethyl)-1-oxa-4,6,9-trithiaspiro[4.4]nonane (6c)

2-(S-methyl)-1-oxa-4,6,9-trithiaspiro[4.4]nonane thiolacetate (2.75g; 0.010mol) in anhydrous THF (20.0mL) was added drop-wise to a stirred, cooled (-10°C), solution of 1.0M lithium aluminum hydride (30.75mL; 0.031mol) in THF under nitrogen. The resulting mixture was stirred for 30 minutes then allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for a further 15 hours.

15 The reaction mixture was acidified to pH4 with 10% aqueous sulfuric acid and extracted with diethyl ether. The organic portion was separated, dried and evaporated to yield 2-(mercaptomethyl)-1-oxa-4,6,9-trithiaspiro[4.4]nonane as a pale yellow oil (2.05g; 0.009mol, 88.4% yield).

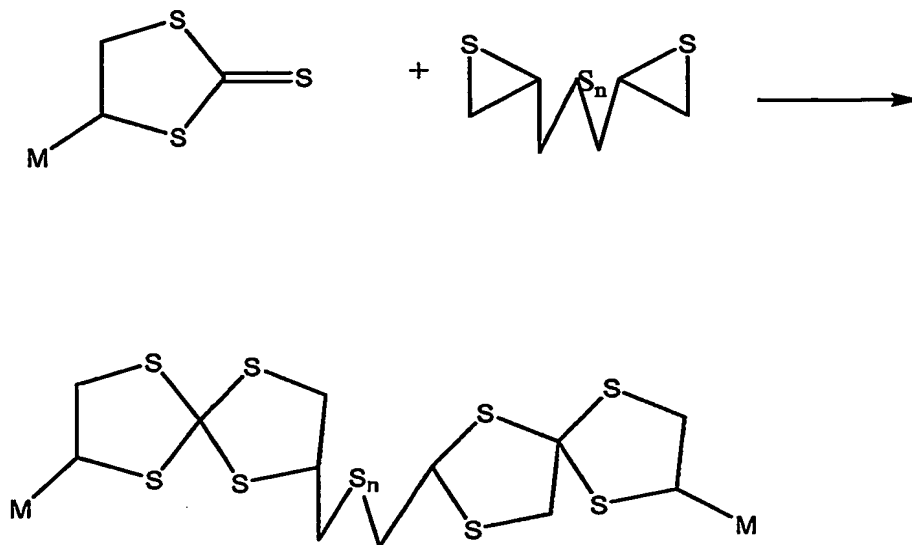


25 $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3) : 1.65 (s, 1H, SH), 2.84 (m, 1H, CH_2S), 2.95 (m, 1H, CH_2S), 3.10 (m, 1H, H-3), 3.26 (m, 1H, H-3), 3.39 (m, 2H, H-7 or 8), 3.53 (m, 2H, H-7 or 8), 4.37 (m, 1H, H-2).

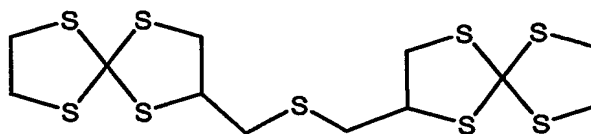
$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3) : 27.08 (CH_2), 38.09 (C(3)), 41.21 (C(7 or 8)), 42.22 (C(7 or 8)), 85.07 (C(2)), 113.34 (C(5)).

PREPARATION OF BisSTOCS and BisSOTOCS**Example 7**

To prepare bisSTOCs according to the reaction, a substituted or unsubstituted ethylenetrithiocarbonate will be reacted with bis-methylthiirane sulphide ($n = 1$) or bis-methylthiirane disulphide ($n = 2$), in the presence of a catalytic amount of tetrafluoroboric acid.



Preferably M is =CR₂SR', CR₂=CH₂, , wherein R = H, C₁-C₄ alkyl, R' = H, acetyl, allyl, acrylate, or methacrylate); and n = 1 or 2.

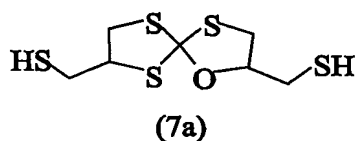
Preparation of 2,2'-[thiobis(methylene)]bis-1,4,6,9-tetrathiaspiro[4.4]nonane (7').

A mixture of ethylene trithiocarbonate (5.04g, 0.037moles) and tetrafluoroboric acid (1.0ml) in anhydrous dichloromethane (50.0 ml) cooled to -5°C and stirred under nitrogen, was treated dropwise with a solution of 2,2'-[thiobis(methylene)]bis-thiirane (3.34g, 0.019moles) in anhydrous dichloromethane (30.0ml). The resulting mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and quenched with 5% sodium bicarbonate solution (50.0ml). The separation of the organic layer followed by water washing, drying and evaporation afford a wet yellow solid. Purification of which by short-path chromatography (20% ethyl acetate/hexane over silica) afforded 2,2'-[thiobis(methylene)]bis-1,4,6,9-tetrathiaspiro[4.4]nonane (4.7% yield).

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3) : 2.90-3.50 (m, 16H, 2 x CH_2 and H-3, 3', 7, 7', 8 and 8'), 4.00 (m, 2H, H-2 and 2').

$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3): 36.0 (2 x CH_2), 39.52-42.56 (C(7, 7', 8 and 8')), 45.86 (C(3 and 3')), 58.23 (C(2 and 2')), 85.73 (C(5 and 5')).

Example 8: Preparation of 2,7-Bis(mercaptomethyl)-1-oxa-4,6,9-trithiaspiro[4.4]nonane (7a)



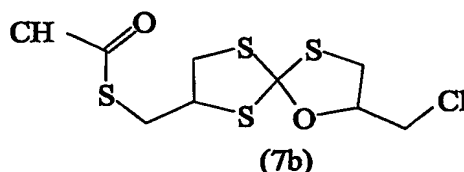
A. Preparation of 2-(Chloromethyl)-7-(S-methyl)-1-oxa-4,6,9-trithiaspiro[4.4]nonane Thiolacetate (7b)

Tetrafluoroboric acid (2.1mL) was slowly added to a stirred, cooled (-10°C) solution of 4-(S-methyl)-1,3-dithiolane-2-thione thiolacetate (18.50g; 0.082mol) in anhydrous dichloromethane (400mL) under nitrogen. The resulting cooled mixture

was treated drop-wise with a solution of epichlorohydrin (16.91g; 14.29mL, 0.183mol) in anhydrous dichloromethane (50.0mL). The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred overnight.

The reaction mixture was washed twice with water and the organic phase separated, dried and evaporated to yield a dark yellow oil (29.44g). Purification by flash-chromatography (20% ethyl acetate in hexane over silica) yielded 2-(chloromethyl)-7-(S-methyl)-1-oxa-4,6,9-trithiaspiro[4.4]nonane thiolacetate (76) (7.55g; 28.89% yield) as an off-white oil.

10



$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3) : 2.36 (s, 3H, CH_3), 3.11 (m, 1H, H-3), 3.28-3.60 (m, 5H, H-3, H-8, CH_2S), 3.75 (m, 2H, CH_2Cl), 4.00 and 4.15 (m, 1H, H-7), 4.50 (m, 1H, H-2).

20

$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3) : 30.95 (CH_3), 32.95-34.02 (CH_2S), 37.37-37.56 (C(3)), 43.59-43.81 (CH_2Cl), 44.19-45.67 (C(8)), 57.05-59.05 (C(7)), 82.83-83.31 (C(2)), 113.11-114.09 (C(5)), 194.92-195.38 (C=O).

B. Preparation of 2,7-Bis(S-methyl)-1-oxa-4,6,9-trithiaspiro[4.4]nonane Thiolacetate (7c)

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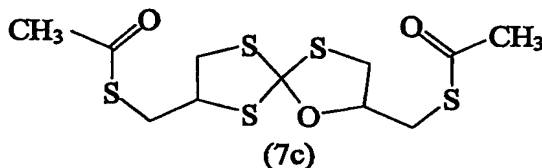
2-(Chloromethyl)-7-(S-methyl)-1-oxa-4,6,9-trithiaspiro[4.4]nonane thiolacetate (7.00g; 0.022mol) in anhydrous DMF (40.0mL) was added over 30 minutes to a stirred solution of potassium thiolacetate (3.53g; 0.031mol) in anhydrous DMF (70.0mL). The reaction was left to stir at room temperature under nitrogen for 20 hours

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The resulting reaction mixture was evaporated and the residue dissolved in chloroform and washed twice with water. The organic phase was separated, dried

and evaporated to yield a dark yellow oil. Purification by chromatography (toluene over flash-silica) yielded 2,7-bis(S-methyl)-1-oxa-4,6,9-trithiaspiro[4.4]nonane thiolacetate as dark yellow oil (3.86g; 35.00% yield).

5



15 $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3) : 2.37 (m, 6H, CH_3 and CH_3), 2.95 (m, 1H, H-3), 3.15-3.75 (m, 7H, H-3, H-8, CH_2S and CH_2S), 3.95-4.25 (m, 1H, H-7), 4.35 (m, 1H, H-2).

$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3) : 30.48-30.80 (CH_3 and CH_3), 32.11-33.73 (CH_2S and CH_2S), 37.72-37.92 (C(3)), 43.78-45.34 (C(8)), 56.54-58.68 (C(7)), 82.23-82.61 (C(2)), 112.27-113.18 (C(5)), 194.58-195.09 (C=O).

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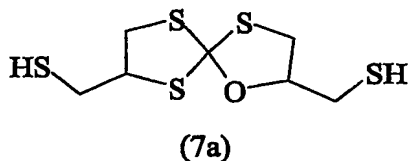
C. Preparation of 2,7-Bis(mercaptomethyl)-1-oxa-4,6,9-trithiaspiro[4.4]nonane (7a)

2,7-Bis(S-methyl)-1-oxa-4,6,9-trithiaspiro[4.4]nonane thiolacetate (3.39g; 0.095mol) in anhydrous THF (20.0mL) was added drop-wise to a stirred cooled (-10°C) solution of 1.0M lithium aluminum hydride (28.52ml; 0.029mol) in THF under nitrogen. The resulting mixture was stirred for 30 minutes and then allowed to warm to room temperature and then stirred for a further 18 hours.

25

The reaction mixture was acidified to pH4 with 10% sulfuric acid and extracted with diethyl ether. The organic portion was separated, dried and evaporated to give a brown oil. Purification by vacuum distillation (92-94°C/0.15mmHg) afforded 2,7-bis(mercaptomethyl)-1-oxa-4,6,9-trithiaspiro[4.4]nonane as a pale yellow oil (0.25g; 3.2% yield).

30



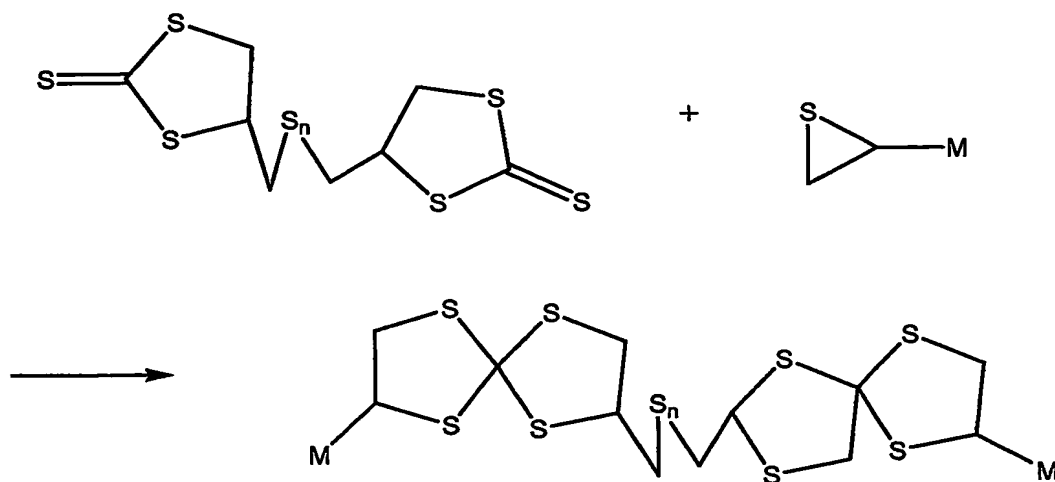
$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3) : 1.65-1.75 (m, 2H, SH and SH), 2.77-3.75 (m, 8H, H-3, H-8, CH_2S and CH_2S), 3.93 and 4.20 (m, 1H, H-7), 4.36 (m, 1H, H-2).

$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl_3) : 28.01-33.08 (CH_2 & CH_2), 38.99-39.19 (C(3)), 43.98-46.07 (C(8)), 61.39-53.67 (C(7)), 85.79-86.27 (C(2)), 113.61-114.53 (C(5)).

5

Example 9: Preparation of a bisSTOC

Bis-ethylenetrithiocarbonate sulfide ($n = 1$) or bis-ethylenetrithiocarbonate ($n = 2$), will be reacted with substituted thiirane (5), in the presence of a catalytic amount of tetrafluoroboric acid to yield a bisSTOC.



10

wherein M is CR_2Cl , $\text{CR}_2\text{SR}'$, $\text{CR}_2=\text{CH}_2$,

R = H, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4$ alkyl;

R' = H, allyl, acrylate, or methacrylate; and

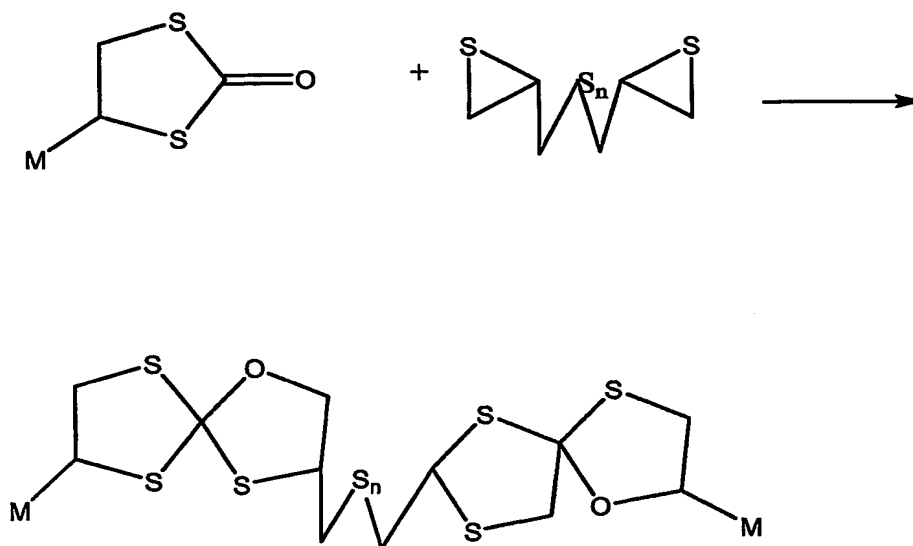
$n = 1$ or 2 .

Example 10: Preparation of a bisSOTOC

Substituted ethylenedithiocarbonates will be reacted with bis-methylthiirane sulphide ($n = 1$), or bis-methylthiirane disulphide ($n = 2$) in the presence of a catalytic amount of tetrafluoroboric acid to yield a bisSOTOC:

5

wherein $M = CR_2SR'$, $CR_2=CH_2$;



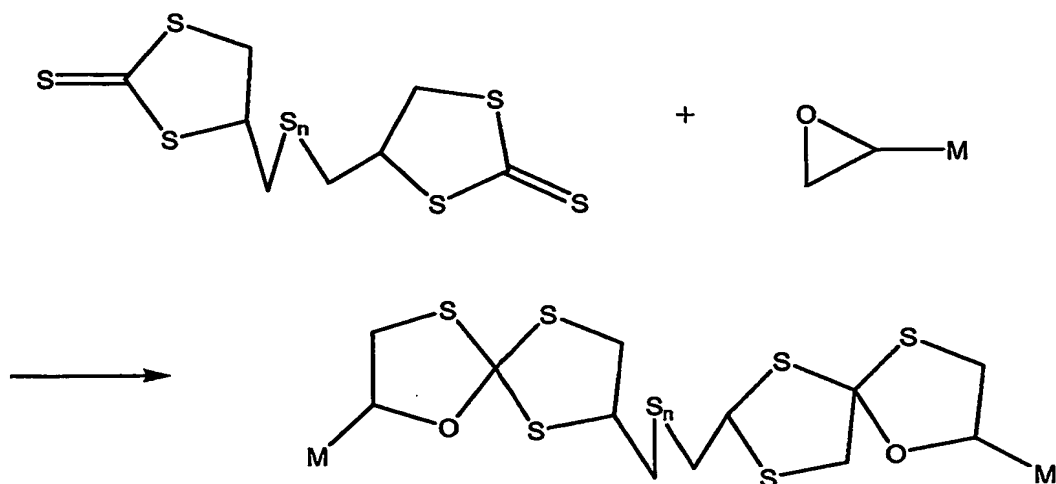
$R = H, C_1-C_4$ alkyl;

$R' = H, \text{acetyl, allyl, acrylate, methacrylate; and}$

$n = 1 \text{ or } 2.$

Example 11: Preparation of a bisSOTOC

Bis-ethylenetrithiocarbonate sulfide ($n = 1$), or bis-ethylenetrithiocarbonate ($n = 2$) will be reacted with substituted oxirane in the presence of a catalytic amount
 5 of tetrafluoroboric acid to yield a bisSOTOC.



wherein M is $= \text{CR}_2\text{Cl}$, $\text{CR}_2\text{OR}'$, $\text{CR}_2=\text{CH}_2$,

$\text{R} = \text{H}$, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4$ alkyl;

$\text{R}' = \text{H}$, allyl, acrylate, or methacrylate; and

10 $n = 1$ or 2 .

METHODS OF POLYMERIZING AND USING STOCS, SOTOCS**BisSTOCS and BisSOTOCS**

Each STOC, SOTOC, bisSTOC or bisSOTOC compound, or a mixture
5 thereof, having at least one, preferably 2 SH bearing substituent(s), may be reacted
with at least one polyisocyanate (or prepolymer thereof), preferably a diisocyanate
such as an aromatic diisocyanate, to form a polythiourethane polymer having a high
refractive index.

Each STOC, SOTOC, bisSTOC or bisSOTOC compound, or a mixture
10 thereof, having at least one, preferably 2 SH bearing substituent(s), may be reacted
with a monomer having at least one unsaturated reactive group, such as a vinyl
group, an allyl group, a (meth)acryl group or a thio(meth)acryl group and/or a
mixture of such monomers and/or one or more polyepisulfide(s) to form a polymer
having a high refractive index, especially a polysulfide polymer.

15 Each STOC, SOTOC, bisSTOC or bisSOTOC compound, or a mixture
thereof, having at least one preferably 2 episulfide bearing substituent(s), may be
reacted with a monomer having at least one, preferably 2 SH group(s) or a mixture
of such monomers and/or one or more polyepisulfide(s) to form a polymer having a
high refractive index, especially a polysulfide polymer.

20 Each STOC, SOTOC, bisSTOC or bisSOTOC compound bearing at least
one unsaturated group such as vinyl group or a (meth)acryl group can be reacted
with one or more copolymerisable monomers such as monomer(s) having at least
one unsaturated group such as those recited above and/or with one or more polythiol
monomers and/or with one or more polyepisulfide monomers (or prepolymers
25 thereof) in order to prepare a polymer having a high refractive index.

Polymerization and copolymerization of the STOCs, SOTOCS, bisSTOCs
and bisSOTOCs compounds of the invention is generally carried out in the presence
of a polymerization in the usual proportions. A preferred (co)polymerization
catalyst comprises an effective amount of at least one salt of formula :



wherein M^{P+} is a cation selected from the group consisting of alkaline
 5 metals, alkalkine earth metals, transitions metals and ammonium groups of formula
 NR_4^+ in which R is an alkyl radical,

Y^- is an anion such as the corresponding acid YH has a pKa fulfilling the
 condition $0.5 \leq pKa \leq 14$ with the proviso that when the mixture comprises an
 episulfide compound and M^{P+} is an ammonium group, the mixture also comprises
 10 an electro-donor compound,

p is the valency of the cation, and

$n = mxp$.

Another preferred (co)polymerization catalyst for copolymerization of
 compounds of the invention having polythiol groups and polyisocyanates is a tin
 15 catalyst such as dibutyltin dichloride.

Example 12: Preparing a Polythiourethane from a STOC

The disulfide 2,7 bis(mercaptomethyl)-1,4,6,9-tetrathiospiro[4.4]nonane of
 Example 2 can be used to make polythiourethanes, via reaction with diisocyanates.
 20 A mixture of 2,7 bis(mercaptomethyl)-1,4,6,9-tetrathiospiro[4.4]nonane,
 xyl.ylenediisocyanate (mol NCO/ mol SH = 1.0) and dibutyltin dilaurate (mol Sn/mol
 $SH = 10^{-4}$) is homogeneously stirred, injected into a glass mold assembly, and
 polymerized at 60°C for 15 hours then at 120°C for 3 hours. The obtained lens is
 optically clear with a high refractive index and may be expected to show better
 25 mechanical and heat resistance properties than present in prior polythiourethanes.

Example 13: Preparation of an m-XDI/[4.4] STOC based polymer

A mixture of m-xylylene diisocyanate (m-XDI) and 2,7-Bis(mercaptomethyl)-1,4,6,9-tetrathiaspiro[4.4]nonane ([4.4] STOC) is stirred magnetically in a glass vial at room temperature. A catalyst solution prepared from 0.3434 g KSCN, 1.3979 g (18,6) Crown ether and 2.2659 g 2-mercaptoethanol is
 5 added to the mixture, which is then stirred and cured in an oven from 20.C to 90.C for 2 hrs and then at 150.C for 2 hrs.

Example 14: Preparation of an m-XDI/[4.4] STOC based polymer

SnBu₂Cl₂ is dissolved in m-XDI at room temperature, then added together
 10 with [4.4] STOC and stirred magnetically prior to curing at 30.C for 6 hrs, then 30.C to 60.C for 3 hrs, then 60.C for 1 hr, 60.C to 80.C for 2 hrs, 80.C for 4 hrs, 80.C to 150.C for 3 hrs, 150.C for 1 hr, 150.C to 75.C for 2.5 hrs. The experimental conditions and the results of these experiments are summarized in Table 3.

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Table 3: m-XDI/[4.4] STOC based polymers

	Ex. 1	Ex. 2
m-XDI (g) ^{a)}	0.6541	0.6525
[4.4] STOC (g)	0.9998	0.9932
Mol SH/ mol NCO	0.997	0.993
Catalyst	KSCN solution ^{b)}	SnBu ₂ Cl ₂
Catalyst (g)	6.3x10 ⁻⁴	1.7x10 ⁻⁴
Cure cycle	c)	d)
Glass Transition Temperature (.C) ^{e)}	100	102
Refractive Index (ne)	1.692	1.693
Abbe number (ve)	31	31
Density	1.437	1.436

- a) m-Xylylene diisocyanate
- b) Made from 0.3434 g KSCN + 1.3979 g (18,6) Crown ether + 2.2659 g 2-mercaptoethanol
- c) 20.C to 90.C (2 hrs) +150.C (2 hrs)
- 5 d) 30.C (6 hrs), 30.C to 60.C (3 hrs), 60.C (1 hr), 60.C to 80.C (2 hrs), 80.C (4 hrs), 80.C to 150.C (3 hrs), 150.C (1 hr), 150.C to 75.C (2.5 hrs).
- e) Measured by Differential Scanning Calorimetry

After testing, the [4.4] STOC monomers successfully reacted with m-XDI to produce transparent high index polymers.

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Example 15: Preparing a vinyl functionalized STOC and its polymer

Another method of polymerizing 2,7-bis(mercaptomethyl)-1,4,6,9-tetrathiospiro[4.4]nonane of Example 2 is to convert its SH groups into S-CH=CH₂ groups by reaction with sodium ethoxide in ethanol, followed by a reaction with vinylbromide. The resulting 2,7-bis(2-thia-3-butenyl)-1,4,6,9-tetrathiospiro[4.4]nonane could be polymerized by mixing it with a radical initiator (such as 2,2'-azobis(2,4-dimethyl-valeronitrile), 1% w/w) and heating the mixture to 120°C for 21 hours. This polythiourethane will have high index and may be expected to show better impact properties than prior thiourethanes.

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Example 16: Preparing a methacrylate functionalized STOC and its polymer

Another way of polymerizing 2,7 bis(mercaptomethyl)-1,4,6,9-tetrathiospiro[4.4]nonane of Example 2 is to convert its SH groups into thiomethacrylate groups by reaction with methacrylic anhydride in the presence of a mixture of an aqueous solution of sodium hydroxide, methyl ter-butyl ether and 2,6-

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di-ter-butyl-methyl phenol. The resulting dithiomethacrylate monomer could be polymerized by UV light in the presence of a radical photoinitiator (such as methyl phenylglyoxylate, 1% w/w), or by heat in the presence of a heat curing initiator (such as 2,2'-azobisisobutyronitrile, 1% w/w). This polythiourethane will have high index and may be expected to show better impact properties than prior thiourethanes.

Example 17: Preparing a Polythiourethane from a SOTOC

The oxygen containing version of the compound used in Examples 12, 15 and 16, i.e., 2,7-bis(mercaptomethyl)-1-oxa-4,6,9-trithiaspiro[4.4]nonane, can also be used to make high index thiourethanes with similar properties. Any related compounds, including 3,7-bis(mercaptomethyl)-1-oxa-4,6,9-trithiaspiro[4.4]nonane, may also be used in this manner. Additionally, dithiaspiro compounds such as: 2,7-bis(mercaptomethyl)-1,4-oxa-6,9-dithiaspiro[4.4]nonane, 3,8-bis(mercaptomethyl)-1,6-oxa-4,9-dithiaspiro[4.4]nonane, 3,7-bis(mercaptomethyl)-1,6-oxa-4,9-dithiaspiro[4.4]nonane, and 2,7-bis(mercaptomethyl)-1,6-oxa-4,9-dithiaspiro[4.4]nonane, may also be polymerized in this manner.

It should be noted that isomeric oxatrithiaspiro species may be achieved by causing a three membered oxirane to transition through a much more unstable/higher energy species or, alternatively, via a reaction scheme that uses a starting material having oxygen atoms appropriately positioned in the 5-membered rings, e.g., as with ethylenedithiocarbonate. Without being bound to any specific theory, it is believed that The isomeric oxatrithia derivative may very well be produced in the common reaction, albeit in small amounts.

In another example, the monothio compounds described above, such as, 2-(mercaptomethyl)-1,4,6,9-tetrathiaspiro[4.4]nonane, as shown in Example 1, can be used to prepare thioacrylate compounds with useful properties. Likewise, trithiaspiro compounds, including the 2-mercaptomethyl-1-oxa-4,6,9,-

trithiaspiro[4.4]nonane, as shown in above and related trithiaspiro compounds such as 3-mercaptomethyl-1-oxa-4,6,9-trithiaspiro[4.4]nonane, 6-mercaptomethyl-1-oxa-4,6,9-trithiaspiro[4.4]nonane, may be used in this manner. Further, dithiaspiro compounds such as: 2-mercaptomethyl-1,4-oxa-6,9-dithiaspiro[4.4]nonane, 2-mercaptomethyl-1,6-oxa-4,9-dithiaspiro[4.4]nonane, and 3-mercaptomethyl-1,6-oxa-4,9-dithiaspiro[4.4]nonane, may be used to prepare thioacrylates in this manner. Of course, the above described methods of polymerization, and the compounds employed therein are all subject to modification and expansion by those of ordinary skill, in view of the disclosure herein.

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Example 18: Methods of Forming Lenses from Polymers of STOCs and/or SOTOCs or the bis compounds

Those of ordinary skill will be able to use the methods described, e.g., in Example 12, and the compositions described elsewhere in the specification to prepare lenses in any number of ways. For example, these compounds may be polymerized in a mold to form a lens or lens blank. Further, these compounds may be polymerized and then ground or otherwise machined into a finished lens. Lenses thus formed may receive any number of abrasion resistant, antireflective, impact resistant, or other coatings to reach their final form. These lenses may be used in any suitable manner.

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